

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

# Jacobs Press Release

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## **JACOBS VOTES TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

(LANSING)—State Senator Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) today voted against Republican sponsored legislation that would eliminate the requirement for professional development programs for Michigan teachers. The legislation passed the Senate on a straight party-line vote.

“I’m so disappointed in this legislation,” said Jacobs. “I just don’t see how this bill helps our children or our educators in any way. Eliminating professional development mandates will greatly impact the quality of education our children receive.”

Research shows that improving teacher knowledge and teaching skills is essential to raising student performance. A University of Michigan study determined that sustained participation in professional development activities improved teachers’ knowledge of subjects and the teachers’ ability to transfer this knowledge to students.

“I am a former teacher and I know how important professional development programs are to the teacher’s ability to continually raise the level of student performance,” said Jacobs. “We require doctors, lawyers, and accountants to periodically update their skills. Why would we not ask the same of the teachers who educate our children? This legislation is very misguided.”

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

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